

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /088 W
-----124588 171134Z /13

R 161500Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5499
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 TRIPOLI 0718

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PEPR, TS, LY
SUBJECT: TUNISIA'S NOUIRA VISITS LIBYA

REF: TUNIS 3463 (NOTAL)

BEGIN SUMMARY: TUNISIAN PRIMIN NOUIRA COMPLETED THREE DAY
VISIT TO TRIPOLI MAY 15 AS HEAD OF TUNISIAN DELEGATION TO
FOURTH MEETING OF JOINT TUNISIAN-LIBYAN HIGH COMMISSION. VISIT
WAS CORRECT BUT LACKING IN ANY WARMTH OR EXTRA PROTOCOL NICETIES.
MEETINGS HELD WITH JALUD, HUMAYDI, AND TURAYKI IN ADDITION TO
HOST UBAYDI, BUT QADHAFI WAS ABSENT IN BENGHAZI AMPLIFYING
ASPECTS OF HIS GREEN BOOK TO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS. JOINT
COMMUNIQUE EMPHASIZES CONTINUING AND INCREASED COOPERATION IN
ALL ECONOMIC FIELDS. FIFTH JOINT COMMISSION MEETING WILL BE
HELD IN TUNIS IN DECEMBER 1978. POSSIBILITY NOUIRA PASSED ON
NUMAYRI MESSAGE CONCERNING ARAB SUMMIT. END SUMMARY.

1. HADI NOUIRA, TUNISIAN PRIME MINISTER, ARRIVED IN
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TRIPOLI MAY 12 AT HEAD OF DELEGATION TO FOURTH MEETING
OF JOINT TUNISIAN-LIBYAN HIGH COMMISSION. DELEGATION
INCLUDED MOHAMED FITOURI, FOREIGN MINISTER; MUSTAPHA
ZAAOUNI, MINISTER-DELEGATE ATTACHED TO PRIME MINISTER'S
OFFICE CHARGED WITH PLANNING; HAMED AMMAR, TUNISIAN
GENERAL COMMISSIONER IN TRIPOLI; AND HAMED EL ABED, LEGAL
ADVISOR TO THE TUNISIAN GOVERNMENT AND HEAD OF THE PRIME

MINISTER'S OFFICE. LIBYAN SIDE WAS HEADED BY ABD AL-ATI AL-UBAYDI WHO IS HEAD OF GOVERNMENT IN HIS CAPACITY AS CHAIRMAN OF THE GENERAL PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE AND INCLUDED DR. ALI ABD AL-SALAM AL-TURAYKI, FOREIGN SECRETARY; MUSA ABU FURAYWAH, PLANNING SECRETARY; NURI AL-FAYTURI AL-MADANI, COMMUNICATIONS SECRETARY; AND ABD AL-HAMID ZINTANI, LIBYAN GENERAL COMMISSIONER IN TUNIS.

2. IN SHARP CONTRAST TO RECENT VISITS OF GUINEA'S SEKOU TOURE AND EVEN SAO TOME/PRINCIPE'S DA COSTA, NOUIRA'S WELCOME LACKED ANY DISPLAY OF WARMTH OR EXTRA PROTOCOL NICETIES CHARACTERISTIC OF SUCH VISITS. ONLY ARAB HEADS OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS INVITED TO WELCOMING BANQUET (MUCH TO FRENCH AMBASSADOR'S CONSTERNATION) AND TUNISIAN FLAGS WERE FLOWN ONLY AT FOREIGN SECRETARIAT AND THE PEOPLE'S PALACE (EVEN SUDAN FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT ABD AL-QASIM IBRAHIM GOT THEM ALONG THE CORNICHE). THE JOINT COMMISSION DISCUSSIONS APPARENTLY WENT FORWARD, HOWEVER, AND NOUIRA MET WITH LIBYAN NUMBER TWO ABD AL-SALAM JALUD AND GENERAL SECRETARIAT MEMBER AL-KHUWAYLIDI AL-HUMAYDI IN ADDITION TO LIBYAN PARTICIPANTS IN THE BILATERAL TALKS. QADHAFI, HOWEVER, LEFT TRIPOLI FOR BENGHAZI WHERE HE DELIVERED A LECTURE TO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ON HIS "GREEN BOOK."

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AGRE-00 /100 W

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R 161500Z MAY 78
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 TRIPOLI 0718

3. ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF DISCUSSIONS WERE LARGELY ROUTINE AND, AS NOTED REFTEL, DID NOT NECESSITATE TUNISIAN PRIME MINISTER'S PRESENCE. BOTH COUNTRIES STAND TO PROFIT FROM CLOSER ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL RELATIONS, AND THIS WAS THE IMPLICATION OF THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE WHICH INCLUDES THE MINUTES SIGNED AT THE END OF THE TALKS. SIX POINTS ARE STIPULATED:

FIRST: THE CONSOLIDATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF COOPERATION IN THE AGRICULTURAL SPHERE;

SECOND: TO STRENGTHEN EFFORTS FOR THE COMPLETION OF TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC STUDIES RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION AND SEA AND LAND COMMUNICATIONS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS PROJECTS;

THIRD: TO CONTINUE EFFORTS AIMED AT THE CONSOLIDATION OF INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION AND INTEGRATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES;
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FOURTH: TO REAFFIRM THE INCREASE OF TRADE EXCHANGE WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE PRINCIPLE WHICH GIVES PRIORITY TO THE SUPPLYING OF EACH COUNTRY WITH THE PRODUCTS OF THE OTHER;

FIFTH: TO CONSOLIDATE COOPERATION IN THE SPHERE OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND LABOR;

SIXTH: TO WORK TO CARRY OUT THE MEASURES RELATING TO THE "TRANSFER AND RESIDENCE" OF THE TWO COUNTRIES' CITIZENS. AN AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED TO AVOID DOUBLE TAXATION ON INCOMES. THIS AGREEMENT WAS INITIALED AUGUST 28, 1973. THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE ADDED THAT THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE JOINT COMMISSION WOULD BE HELD IN TUNIS IN DECEMBER 1978.

4. POLITICAL ASPECTS OF VISIT ARE MORE OBSCURE. NOUIRA MAY HAVE DEMONSTRATED THE STRENGTH OF HIS CURRENT POSITION TO HIS TUNISIAN PUBLIC, BUT THE VISIT HAD NO SIMILAR IMPACT IN LIBYA. SOME ARAB DIPLOMATS HERE BELIEVE ONE PURPOSE OF NOUIRA'S TRIP WAS TO CONVEY MESSAGE TO LIBYAN LEADERS FROM SUDAN'S NUMAYRI CONCERNING PROPOSED ARAB SUMMIT, BUT NO CONFIRMATION IS AVAILABLE. NUMAYRI BY-PASSED LIBYA DURING RECENT VISIT TO ALGIERS, TUNIS AND RABAT. NOUIRA DID MEET WITH TURAYKI AND JALUD AND HAD AMPLE OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS INTERNATIONAL ISSUES.

5. COMMENT. THIS VISIT (LIKE THE ONE IN 1977) CHANGES NO POLITICAL ATTITUDES IN TRIPOLI. THE LIBYANS DO NOT LIKE NOUIRA AND HAVE BEEN IMPLICATED IN PLOTS AGAINST HIM ON AT LEAST TWO OCCASIONS. IT IS COMMONLY ARGUED

THAT FOR ECONOMIC REASONS LIBYA AND TUNISIA ARE WILLING
TO INCREASE ECONOMIC, COMMERCIAL AND LABOR CONTACTS BUT
THESE WILL NOT FORESTALL FURTHER LIBYAN ATTEMPTS TO
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DESTABILIZE NOUIRA'S GOVERNMENT IN THE FUTURE AND, IN
FACT, PROVIDE A KIND OF TROJAN HORSE ALLOWING LIBYA
GREATER OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLOIT ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DIS-
CONTENT WITHIN TUNISIA.

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